

COLLECTION OVERVIEW

AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND

I. SCOPE

This overview covers materials relating to Australia and New Zealand. Materials on Australia and New Zealand can be found throughout the Library, both in the General Collections and among non-book format collections. Australian and New Zealand history materials are classed DU80 through DU480, and Australian and New Zealand political science is classed JQ4000 through JQ5899. These classes do not cover all the Australian and New Zealand collection in the Library. Materials that have been classed with Australia or New Zealand as a geographic subdivision of another subject are found throughout the Library's classification schedule. A related overview is Anglophone Literature.

II. SIZE

According to the Library's Online Catalog in October 2007, the Library's collections in DU80398 (Australian history) numbered over 8100 titles and over 3200 titles in DU400-430 (New Zealand history), with additional holdings listed in the main card catalog. This count does not include works of fiction, which are usually not cataloged by subject. Nor does it include the topics where Australia or New Zealand is a geographic sub-division of various subjects.

There are approximately 3600 government documents from Australia and New Zealand in the stacks of the Serial and Government Publications Division, with strong holdings of bibliographies, technical journals, and parliamentary papers.

Large quantities of other non-book materials—manuscripts, films, sound recordings, photographs, etc.—are uncataloged or partially cataloged and found in the appropriate custodial divisions.

III. GENERAL RESEARCH STRENGTHS

The Library of Congress collects materials from and about Australasia at a level adequate to support the needs of Congress and scholarly research. There are strong collections in all areas and relating to all periods of Australasian history and culture, including extensive holdings of mid to-late 19th-century works by early explorers in Australia (e.g. Grey, Eyre, Angas, Spencer, Gillen), and early government reports on aboriginal settlements and cattle stations. Due to copyright deposits, the general books collection is especially strong in books by and about Australia and New Zealand published or distributed in the United States. The Library has extensive backruns of government documents integrated into the general collections and searchable through the card and computer catalogs.

Major non-book collections include recent Australian theatrical feature films deposited with the Library for copyright purposes; Australian films from the 1910s to the 1930s, including such masterpieces as Norman Dawn's *For the Term of His Natural Life* sent to the Library as part of a cooperative preservation agreement with the National Film and Sound Archive, Canberra; recordings of aboriginal music from the Institute for Aboriginal Studies; symphonic music from Australian orchestras and composers; and Australian radio broadcasts from World War II.

The Geography and Map Division has approximately 300 drawers of maps and charts relating to Australia, New Zealand, and the surrounding waters, as well as a substantial collection of 19th century exploration atlases, including atlases by Flinders and Freycinet.

The Library's collections of prints, photographs, and non-music sound recordings from Australia focus on World War II campaigns in the Pacific, although among the prints and photographs are such items as World War I military recruiting posters, and political posters from the Australian Labor Party during the Whitlam leadership.

IV. AREAS OF DISTINCTION

The Library of Congress holds comprehensive collections in the fields of Australian and New Zealand law and Australian national bibliography. The Library also attempts to maintain a complete collection of Australasian statistical annuals. In addition, there are a number of unique non-book collections relating to Australia and New Zealand. Materials available in the Manuscript Division include the chronicle of the passenger ship *Wellfleet* (1858; 1 volume), the journals of Jared Leigh Elliott (1838-1842; 2 volumes), the logbook of the whaler *Lewis* (1849-1853; 1 volume), the George Chalmers collection (1640-1825; 1383 items in 8 microfilm reels), the Moreton Frewen papers (1871-1932; 40,000 items), the Nelson Trusler Johnson papers (1916-1950; 22,400 items), the World Power Conference records (1930; 300 items), and the James Clarke journal (1843-1845; 1 volume). There is a collection of over 500 field recordings of Australian folksongs and aboriginal music in the collections of the American Folklife Center as well as old recordings transcribed by the anthropologists Waterman and Elkin, and a 1910 wax cylinder recording of aboriginal music from the Beagle Bay Mission. The Prints and Photographs Reading Room has in its collections over 700 images with an emphasis on World War II-era military photos, and over 2300 black and white photographs in the *US. News and World Report* Collection.

V. ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

On the Library's website, as part of the *Global Gateway: World Cultures and Resources*, a resource entitled *Portals to the World: Links to Electronic Resources*

From Around the World include portals for both Australia and New Zealand.

A number of general electronic databases to which the Library subscribes, such as the *Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals*, index journals published in Australia and New Zealand. Information about Australia and New Zealand is also provided in subscription databases available at the Library, such as *Historical Abstracts*. The Library currently does not subscribe to any online databases focused solely on Australia/New Zealand studies.

VI. WEAKNESSES/EXCLUSIONS

There are occasional gaps in holdings of serials, monographic series, and working papers from Australia and New Zealand. In the past, exchange agreements with government agencies and state libraries have ensured that the Library received complete sets of Australasian government documents. With the recent cancellation of some of these agreements and a trend toward privatization of government document printing in these areas, maintaining the quality of the Library's collection of Australasian government documents will become more difficult.